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ICED BEVERAGES.

BY J. C. ANDREWS, M. D.

As the season of year has arrived when the people will indulge in ice-cold drinks, such as iced tea, ice-cold water, lemonade, ice-cream, etc., the venders of ice are enjoying a harvest from the sale of their goods. The habitual use of these drinks is, without doubt, a most pernicious habit, as the continuous use of cold to the coats of the stomach impairs its digestive power to a greater or less extent, in that its first action, though somewhat comforting, congeals, as it were, the mucous membrane of the throat, esophagus, and stomach, and its secondary effect is that of an irritant, leaving a sensation of heat, with a desire or craving for more of the cooling beverage, and the more it is indulged the greater becomes the appetite, and it not infrequently occurs that after a summer of such indulging the person is a confirmed dyspeptic, if the foundation of gastric cancer is not laid.

During the hot season it is an exceedingly common practice

for those who board at fashionable resorts to use these drinks in place of hot ones, and it will be noticed that these persons not infrequently apply to the family physician for the relief of some distress in the digestive apparatus, though in a healthy condition before commencing the use of these beverages, not at all suspecting the cause of the trouble.

The imbibing of cold drinks with hot food is exceedingly injurious to the stomach, as digestion is impaired or stopped until its temperature becomes normal. During an observation of some twenty years, it has been my fortune to meet with two cases of gastric cancer, which I verily believe were induced by the constant and continued use of ice-cold water during the hot months. The water-pail had ice in it constantly, and was as constantly visited to allay the ever-increasing thirst that was induced by the duties of the hour. In one case, the party, a lady, who undertook an unusual task one hot day in the month of August, becoming heated, had frequent occasion to visit the ice-water tank to quench her thirst, after which she experienced a loss of digestive power, and dated from that day her decline, with more or less pain in the stomach, until in about six months she became a confirmed invalid, and in seven more months died of cancer of the stomach. The other case was very similar. Mrs. E., whose husband always kept ice in the water-bucket, the thirst being allayed by the use of the ice-water, after the second summer had frequent attacks of indigestion, with severe cramping in the stomach, with more or less pain constantly, or rather an uneasy feeling therein, sallow complexion, care-worn expression, with a general letting down of the life-giving powers. The patient expressed a fear that it was cancer of the stomach, in which I fully concurred, though I never informed her of my opinion. I have never learned the result of this case, being separated from the home of the patient.

I am very much inclined to the opinion that the habitual use of iced drinks is a most fruitful source of the many forms of dyspepsia we meet, if not of gastric cancer, and that it is the duty of physicians to so inform their patients of the danger thereof, as an ounce of preventive is worth all the cure that was ever invented, at least for the latter affection.

This short communication is offered as a stimulant to further research on the part of other physicians, relative to the above subject, as we believe that once the attention of the live doctor is thus directed, he will find a cause for many of the gastric troubles he is called to treat. We should be pleased to hear from other physicians on this subject.

PSYCHOMETRY, ETC.

BY JOSEPH RHODES BUCHANAN, M. D.

[This with its kindred subjects is now occupying the attention of the leading progressive German and French physicians, and they have in Germany a monthly devoted to the dissemination of the results of their investigations. These savants, however, have made some grave errors in their German periodical, the *Sphinx*, and for their correction Prof. Joseph R. Buchanan wrote an article, which we shall give from the English copy kindly furnished by the translator, Mr. John C. Schlarbaum, with the distinguished author's sanction. We also may expect, occasionally, translations of interesting phenomena and results, but would remind our readers that such are simply *reports* of foreign experiments, and are to stand on their own merits—ED.]

PSYCHOMETRY having begun to attract considerable attention abroad, it is time that an authentic exposition of this American discovery should be given.

The fact that psychometry has been publicly taught by myself for forty-four years in the United States, and has even held its position in a medical college, while its practitioners have been increasing in numbers, has not secured for it a proper recognition from the press nor from colleges of any class, because I have not actively engaged in propagandism; and novel, revolutionary truths make no social progress except by personal influence and urgency. The subject cannot be well presented without including in the statement the investigation of cerebral function, in which psychometry has been one of the discoveries, and which has grown into the full development and demonstration of a complete anthropology.

To make the most concise statement that would be intelligible, I would say that having devoted myself, in 1835, to the study of the functions of the brain, by the craniological method of Gall, the first five years enabled me to discover several important errors in the cranial location of organs; to verify the inaccuracy of Gall's doctrine of the cerebellum; to seek the cerebral location of many functions overlooked by Gall; and to examine that department of cerebral science entirely overlooked by him—the physiological functions of the brain as the controlling organ of the body.

The brain gives organic expression to functions which are essentially located in the soul, and the body gives organic manifestation to functions which are controlled in the brain, while the body reacts upon the brain, and the brain upon the soul. Thus every element of humanity has a triple representation: that in the soul, which is purely psychic, yet by its influence becomes physiological in the body; that in the body, which is purely physiological, yet by its influence becomes psychic in the soul, and that in the brain, which produces physiological effects in the body, and psychic ones on the soul.

Thus each of the three repositories of power is a psycho-physiological representative of the man—more *physical* in the body, more *spiritual* in the soul, but in the brain a more perfect psycho-physiological representation of man as he is in the present life.

This full conception of the brain, which Gall did not obtain, compelled me to seek a new science of cerebral physiology, in which the brain may expose the character of the body as well as of the soul, of which I would only say at present that my first observations were directed to ascertaining the cerebral seats of the external senses of vision, hearing, and feeling. The sense of feeling, of which I became absolutely certain in 1838, at the base of the middle lobe, has since been substantially confirmed by Ferrier's recent experiments on the monkey; but I have not been concerned about the results of vivisection, knowing that if I have made a true discovery vivisection and pathology must necessarily confirm it, and I am not aware that any of my dis-

coveries have been disturbed by the immense labors of vivisection!

The discovery of the organ of the sense of feeling led to an investigation of the powers and the phenomena, when its development was unusually large; hence came the initial part of psychometry.

Early in 1841 I found a very large development of the organ in the head of the late Rev. Bishop Polk, at that time at Little Rock, Arkansas, who subsequently became a Confederate general. After explaining to him his great sensibility to atmospheric, electric, and all other physical conditions, he mentioned a still more remarkable sensibility—that whenever he touched brass, he had immediately the taste of brass in his mouth, whether he knew what he was touching or not.

I lost no time in verifying this observation by many experiments upon other persons; thus I found that there were many in whom sensibility was developed to this extent, so that when I placed a piece of metal in their hands, behind their backs, they could tell what the metal was by its taste or some other impression.

Further experimenting showed that substances of any kind held in the hands of sensitives, yielded not only an impression upon the sense of taste, by which they might be recognized, but an impression upon the entire sensibility of the body. Medicines held in this manner gave a distinct impression, as distinct as if they had been swallowed, to the majority of the members of a large medical class in the leading medical college at Cincinnati, and to those who had superior psychometric capacities, the impression given in this manner enabled them to describe the qualities and effects of the medicines as fully and accurately as they are given in the works on *materia medica*.

This method of investigation I consider not only vastly more easy and rapid than the method adopted by the followers of Hahnemann, but more accurate and efficient than any other method known to the medical profession, and destined, therefore, to produce a greater improvement in our knowledge of the *materia medica* than we can derive from all other methods combined, in the same length of time.

I may hereafter publish the practical demonstration of this, but the vast amount of labor involved in my experimental researches has not yet permitted me to take up this department, although it has yielded me some very valuable discoveries. The foregoing were initial steps in the development of psychometry, and they were simultaneously accompanied by other discoveries in 1841, the scope and magnitude of which appear to me, and to those who have studied my demonstrations, to be far more important than anything that has ever been discovered or done in biological science, being nothing less than a complete scientific demonstration of the functions of the brain in all the psychophysiological relations.

The origin of this discovery was as follows: My advanced investigations of the brain, between 1835 and 1841, had added so much to the incomplete and inaccurate discoveries of Gall, and had brought cerebral science into a so much closer and more accurate relation with cerebral anatomy and embryology as illustrated by Tiedemann, that I became profoundly aware of the position in which I found myself as an explorer, possessed of knowledge previously quite unknown, and yet at the same time, however true, not strictly demonstrable, since none could fully realize its truths without following the same path and studying with the same concentrated devotion the comparative development of the brain in men and animals. Such zeal and assiduity I knew could not be expected. There might not be one man in a century to undertake such a task, and when he appeared his voice would not be decisive. I would therefore appear not as presenting positive knowledge, but as contributing another theory which the medical profession, regardless of my labors, would treat as a mere hypothesis.

It was absolutely necessary that the functions of the brain should be demonstrated as positively as those of the spinal nerves had been demonstrated by Majendie and Bell. Two methods appeared possible; the two agents were galvanism and the aura of the nervous system, commonly called animal magnetism. My first experiments in 1841 satisfied me that both are available, but that the nervous was far more available, efficient, and sat-

isfactory. Upon this I have relied ever since, though I sometimes experiment with galvanism to demonstrate its efficiency. And Dr. De La Rue, of Cuba, informed me over twenty years ago that he had found very delicate galvanic currents available for this purpose in his practice. Animal magnetism or mesmerism had been involved in mystery and empiricism. There never had been any scientific or anatomical exploration of their phenomena, and this mystery I desired to dispel. My first step was to ascertain that for the experiments on the nervous system we did not need the somnambule or hypnotic condition, and that it was especially to be avoided as a source of confusion and error.

Whenever the organ of sensibility or sensitiveness was sufficiently developed and predominant, the conditions of neurological experiments for scientific purposes were satisfactory, and to make such experiments the subject, instead of being ignorant, passionate, emotional, hysterical, or inclined to trance, should be as intelligent as possible, well balanced and clear-headed, competent to observe subjective phenomena in a critical manner. Hence my experiments, which have been made upon all sorts of persons, were most decisive and satisfactory to myself when made upon well-educated physicians, upon medical professors, my learned colleagues, upon eminent lawyers or divines, upon strong-minded farmers or hunters, entirely unacquainted with such subjects, and incapable of psychological delusion, or upon persons of very skeptical minds, who would not admit anything until the phenomena were made very plain and unquestionable.

While the *nervaura* of the human constitution (which is as distinctly perceptible to the sensitive as its caloric and electricity) is emitted from every portion of the surface of the head and body, the quality and quantity of that which is emitted from the inner surface of the hand renders it most available, and the application of the hand of anyone who has a respectable amount of vital and mental energy will produce a distinct local stimulation of functions, wherever it may be applied upon the head or body. In this manner it is easy to demonstrate the amiable or pleasing influence of the superior region of the brain, the more

energetic and vitalizing influence of the posterior half, and the mild, subduing influence of the front. In my first experiments in the spring of 1841 I found such great susceptibility that I could demonstrate perfectly even the smallest organ of the brain; and it was gratifying to find that the illustrious Gall had ascertained with such marvelous accuracy the functions of the smallest organ in the front lobe, and the subject could be engrossed in the thought of numbers and counting by touching the organ of numbers and calculation.

Eagerly did I proceed in testing the accuracy of all the discoveries of Gall and the additions that I had made by craniological studies, as well as bringing out new functions which I had not been able to anticipate or discover. Omitting the history of these experiments, I would but simply state that in 1842 I published a complete map of the brain, in which the full development of human faculties made a complete picture of the psychophysiological constitution of man, and thus presented for the first time a science which must justly be called anthropology. I do not publish or circulate this map apart from the explanatory volume, "Outlines of Anthropology;" for the reason that it is impossible for any nomenclature of organs to convey a correct idea of the functions, and hence such a map would lead to a great many misconceptions. It is obvious that prior to 1842 there was nothing entitled to the name of anthropology, as there was no complete geography before the discovery of America and the circumnavigation of the globe.

When man is fully portrayed by the statement of all the psychic and all the physiological faculties and functions found in his brain, which contains the locality and manifests them in the body and soul, it is obvious that he has a true anthropology, which, to complete its fullness, requires only the study of the soul as an entity distinct from the brain, and of the body as an anatomical and physiological apparatus. The latter had already been well accomplished by the medical profession, and the former very imperfectly by spiritual psychologists, but neither the physiology nor the pneumatology had been placed in organic connection with the central cerebral science. In consummating

such tasks I felt justified, in 1842, in adopting the word anthropology as the representative of the new science, though at that time it was so unfamiliar as to be misunderstood. This science, as presented in my "Outlines of Anthropology," in 1854, embraced another very important and entirely novel discovery—the psycho-physiological relations of the surface of the body, the manner in which every portion of the body responds to the brain and the soul, the final solution of the great and hitherto impenetrable mystery of the triune relations of soul, brain, and body. This discovery, constituting the science of sarcognomy, became the basis of a new medical philosophy, explaining the influence of the body on the soul in health and disease, and the reciprocal influence of the soul and body.

This manifestly modified our views of therapeutics, and revolutionized electro-therapeutics, by pointing out the exact physiological and psychic effect of every portion of the surface of the body when subjected to local treatment, and hence originating new methods of electric practice, in which many results were produced not deemed heretofore possible. All this was fully presented in my work on "Therapeutic Sarcognomy," published in 1885, which was all sold in a few months, and will not again be published until the close of this year.

In contemplating the immense results of a successful investigation of the functions of the brain, I can see no logical escape from the conclusion that such a revelation of the function of the brain is by far the most important event that belongs to the history of science, an event so romantically different from the common slow progress of science, when cultivated by men of ability, that I do not wonder at the incredulity which naturally opposes its recognition, and seems to render the most unanimous and conclusive testimony from honorable scientists apparently ineffective.

The support of the medical college in which I was Dean of the Faculty, the hearty endorsement by the Faculty of the Indiana State University, and by numerous committees of investigators, seems to count as nothing with the conservative portion of the medical profession, who have even understood how to ignore so

simple and positive a demonstration as that of Harvey, or so practical a demonstration as that of Hahnemann, or so irresistible a mass of facts as those of modern psychic science.

The question will naturally arise among enlightened Germans (this article was written for Germany—the *Sphinx*, a monthly) why so grand and demonstrable a science should, for forty-five years, have been unknown in Germany and France.

It is sufficient to say that new and revolutionary truth is never welcome and if the discoverer is not active as a propagandist, it has no diffusion. I did not feel that there was any receptiveness across the ocean for what was resisted here. Nevertheless I did prepare and send to Edinburgh in 1841 a brief report of my discoveries, accompanied by an endorsement of introduction from the venerable Professor Caldwell, the founder of the successful medical college at Louisville, Kentucky, whose lectures were attended by over four hundred pupils. I supposed the gentlemen of the Phrenological Society at Edinburgh the most liberal parties in Great Britain, but they declined publishing my memoir "as too marvelous," and proposed merely to file it away as a caveat of the discovery. That ended all thoughts of Europe, and, indeed, it seemed to me premature to urge such a discovery and so grand a philosophy upon the world in the state of its intellectual civilization at that time. I ceased to agitate the subject for many years and allowed myself to be drawn into the political agitations connected with our civil war, to mitigate some of its social and political evils.

Of late, however, an urgent and imperative sense of duty has put my pen in motion, as the remnant of my life will hardly be sufficient to record the results of my investigations.

In the "New Education," the "Manual of Psychometry—the Dawn of a New Civilization"—I have applied to the public, and three editions of the former, with two of the latter, show that the public is not indifferent. The recognition of the marvelous claims of psychometry will prepare the way for the supreme science of anthropology, to which the coming century will do justice. In justice to the learned Professor Caldwell and myself, I should not omit to mention that this distinguished, eloquent,

and venerable gentleman, who in his early life was a contemporary of the famous Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia, and throughout his life was a champion of the most progressive doctrines on biology, not only gave his friendly co-operation on the first presentation of my discoveries, but ten years later honored me with a visit at Cincinnati, to become more fully acquainted with them, and subsequently, by appointment of the National Medical Association, prepared a report upon subjects of a kindred nature, in which he incorporated a statement of my discoveries. His subsequent illness and death, in 1854, at an advanced age, prevented the delivery of this memoir.

In conclusion, let me state what are the claims of psychometry which justify us in calling it "the dawn of a new civilization." Psychometry offers a new agency for scientific purposes incomparably beyond all the world has known heretofore, and to make greater additions to human knowledge than the telescope and microscope combined. Sufficient to myself is the honor of introducing and organizing such a science. Its innumerable applications must be made by others and will bring in the near future a flow of psychometric literature recording invaluable discoveries.

(To be continued.)

PATENT MEDICINES, RATIONALE OF AND NUISANCE OF.

BY G. P. BISSELL, M. D.

I SOMETIMES wonder if any of the Old School of doctors ever stop to inquire why the world is flooded with patent medicines and cure-alls until that flood threatens to become an inundation, more complete than was the allegorical Noachian deluge, as certainly its continuance is longer. But I suppose they do not, for such a line of philosophical thought, if indulged in, would tend directly to sap the very foundation of their loose rules of prescribing medicine. For I charge that it is this same loose way of prescribing which directly suggests and encourages all this flood of patent medicines.

Rather than stop to prove the truth of the assertion by a ratiocinative argument, I will take the shorter cut of illustrating its truth by showing it to the eye-sight. I open to the advertising pages of their medical journals and read, "Salol," "Listrine," "Cherry Malt Phosphates," "Phosphorus, Damiana, and Nux Vomica Pills," etc., etc., etc., to weariness.

Worse. I take up any of their books of formulas and find each formula to be composed of so many different ingredients that it makes one's eyes bulge out, staring at the science of the thing—it is neither fish nor flesh. Here is a specimen for Incontinence of Urine:—

R Tinct. Belladonna, $\frac{1}{2}$ drachm.
 Tinct. Ignatiæ $1\frac{1}{2}$ drachm.
 Tinct. Cantharides, $\frac{1}{2}$ drachm.
 Tinct. Cinchonæ Comp., 2 ounces.

M. Sig.—One teaspoonful in water three times a day.

Observe the grammatical accuracy of it, even to punctuation, but don't fail to observe the show of scientific knowledge it carries. An ignorant eclectic would have prescribed simply Tr. Belladonna (in the wrong case) with water; or if there was other indication, combined it with Tr. Nux.; and if that did not do he would have changed to Tr. Arnica. But that would not have exhibited so much scientific skill, nor have paved the way for a patent medicine.

But still worse. Let anyone take up the U. S. Dispensatory and read the thousand and one preparations of iron, and he will be appalled at the science of the Old School. Now I find no use for more than two or three preparations of iron: the Tr. Muriate and Monsel solutions, for instance.

My anemic patients get well on some form of alkali combined or alternated with vegetable tonic and good food—but I do not claim this to be scientific. To sum up, for the subject makes me tired, can anyone read the formulas of the "regular," "scientific" Old School and be at loss for the source of patent medicines?

GALVANISM.

A THESIS BY H. VANDRE.

By means of the galvanic agency a variety of striking and surprising effects have been produced, some of which we have already noticed, and of which the following is a brief summary: Gunpowder, cotton, and other inflammable substances have been set on fire; charcoal has been made to burn with a most brilliant and beautiful white flame; water has been decomposed into its elementary parts, hydrogen and oxygen gas; metals have been melted and set on fire; fragments of diamonds, charcoal, and plumbago have been dispersed as if they had been evaporated; platina, the hardest of metals, has been melted as readily as wax in the flame of a candle; the sapphire, quartz, magnesia, lime, and the finest compounds in nature, have been made to enter into fusion; its effects on the animal system are no less surprising; when applied to a fowl or rabbit immediately after life is extinct, it produces the most strange and violent convulsions on the nervous and muscular system, as if the vital functions were again revived; and when applied to the human body after death, the stimulus has produced the most horrible contortions and grimaces in the muscles of the head and face, and the most rapid movements in the hands and feet.

Numerous experiments which have been made both on dead animals and human subjects have led to the conclusion that galvanism possesses some sanative, as well as energetic, influence on the action of diseased living beings. It has been found to effect cures and to afford relief in nervous disorders. It has not only been used to cure the afflicted living, but also to resuscitate the apparently dead in all cases of suspended animation, from accidents, poisons, or otherwise. It has been found to be a test of vitality, and the surest criterion of recent death.

There can be no question but that the nerves are intended to transmit the electric current from one part of the system to another, and that in the normal condition of the body they keep up an equilibrium of attractive influence between the various organs

of the animal structure, the brain and spinal cord having connected with them the two divisions of nerves; the motor nerves and the nerves of sensation bear a remarkable analogy to the galvanic battery and metallic wires connected with it. The positive and negative wires of the galvanic pile, corresponding in function with the nerves of sensation and the nerves of motion, which are connected with the central medullary organs of the system. Every organic structure is more or less under the influence of electro-magnetism. Galvanism is capable of rousing all the special senses. A galvanic current traversing the optic nerve causes flashes of light to be perceived; the gustatory nerve, under the influence of galvanism, produces the sensation of taste; the olfactory nerve, smell; the auditory nerve, sounds in the ears. The two poles have very different effect—the positive a soothing, the negative, a stimulating effect. This is not the case with the secondary faradic, and but slightly so with the primary faradic current. Galvanism produces chemical changes in the tissues, and also facilitates the processes of exosmosis and endosmosis within the tissues, by which means it is capable of producing a profound change in the vital processes and tissues.

THERAPEUTICS OF GALVANISM.

In cases of poisoning with opium, and the physician is called in too late to apply the proper antidotes, here the stomach-pump will be of no avail; absorption having taken place, the poison is beyond our reach. Galvanism will be our best weapon; patient is apparently lifeless, the surface of the body is cold, countenance pale and livid, lips purple, pupils contracted, respiration scarcely perceptible, and pulse hardly to be felt. Here the persistent use of galvanism will greatly assist us; we will apply it by means of coils and contact beaker. One pole is applied to the neck, the other to the region of the heart or epigastrium, and by them a succession of very powerful shocks is given. The good effects are immediately apparent; the muscles of respiration are set in motion, and the diaphragm contracted powerfully; the chest more fully expanded, respiration is more perfectly carried on, and a corresponding improvement is observed in the countenance; the pulse improves, and becomes powerful. The current should be

broken at intervals; the application is continued for several hours and is finally successful.

In stricture of the urethra, the result desired is the absorption of the stricture, and except in old, hard, cartilaginous stricture, all cauterizing effects must be sedulously avoided. Introduce into the urethra an electrode, about a size larger than the stricture will admit, insulated to the tip, down to the stricture. The electrode should be soaped, not oiled, oil being a non-conductor, for the purpose of lubrication, and to facilitate its introduction.

This electrode is to be then attached to the negative pole of the battery. The circuit is completed by the broad sponge attached thereto, and moistened with salt water, and either held in the hand of the patient or placed upon some convenient part. The patient may be operated upon either standing or lying, as will be found most convenient. As regards the amount of current to be used, the first point is here: To use as little as will produce the desired effect, which is best judged by consulting the sensation of the patient. We should give as little pain as possible. As soon as the patient feels the current, the intensity is sufficient, and should not be increased beyond this point. A current of five to fifteen cells is all that will be needed. Keeping the electrode pressed in contact with the stricture, but not forced, we will have the satisfaction, in a few minutes, to find that it slips with facility through. If a second stricture is present, it may be treated in the same manner. This completes the operation, which may be repeated as many times as necessary, at intervals of a few days.

Galvanism will be found invaluable in affording immediate relief, and, in many cases, a permanent cure in the following troubles: In poisoning, strictures of the urethra, strictures of the esophagus, in soft chancres, in chronic ulcers, in hernia, in diphtheria, in rheumatism, in St. Vitus' dance, in stricture of bowels. There can be no question as to the propriety of applying electricity in a great variety of diseases. It is a settled fact that, administered judiciously by competent persons, the happiest results have followed its use in a multitude of instances.

SELECTIONS.

EXPERIMENTS WITH STENOCARPINE, THE LOCAL ANÆSTHETIC RECENTLY DISCOV- ERED BY MR. M. GOODMAN, V. S., AND DR. ALLEN M. SEWARD.

As soon as I had read the very remarkable communication of Dr. J. Herbert Claiborne, Jr., in the *Medical Record*, of July 30, 1887, I asked him where I could obtain the above alkaloid. He was kind enough to furnish me fifteen grains of a two-per-cent. solution. With these I made a number of experiments, which I beg briefly to report.

A. PHYSIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS.—1. *On the eye.*—The solution, instilled into one of my own eyes, and into the healthy eyes of several other persons, produced *anæsthesia* of the conjunctiva and cornea in the same way and fully as energetically as cocaine of equal strength. In five or six minutes the anæsthesia to the touch was complete, and remained so for ten minutes, then began to diminish, and disappeared in twenty to thirty minutes. An unpleasant *feeling of dryness* set in with the anæsthesia, and lasted the whole day. The *palpebral fissure enlarged*, and the *conjunctiva* was moderately *bleached*. The pallor of the conjunctiva disappeared with or soon after the anæsthesia, but the enlargement of the palpebral fissure lasted for hours.

The *pupil began to dilate* in from eight to twelve minutes, reached its maximum, that of an utmost atropine-dilation, in twenty minutes, remained in this condition the whole day, was somewhat diminished the next day, still marked on the third day, and disappeared, as a rule, on the fourth. The *accommodation began to diminish* in ten minutes, and was completely paralyzed in twenty or twenty-five minutes. In my left eye a hyperopia of $\frac{1}{24}$ manifested itself, whereas the right, not under the influence of the remedy, showed H $\frac{1}{48}$. Corrected with $+\frac{1}{24}$, my sight was perfectly sharp. The paralysis of accommodation continued the whole of the next day, diminished on the third, and had not yet quite disappeared on the fourth day.

The *tension of the eyeball* during the anæsthesia was very slightly diminished. The interior and mobility of the eye were unchanged. The luster of the cornea was not conspicuously diminished.

2. *On the nose.* Four drops instilled into the nose and spread over the mucous membrane rendered the latter *insensible* in five minutes; also, the *sense of smell* was almost completely suspended, more so than with like doses of cocaine. The nasal passages appeared freer and wider. This condition lasted ten minutes, and returned to the normal in the next ten minutes.

3. *On the throat.* Four drops were put on the left side of the pillars of the palate and the adjacent part of the tongue. A sensation of dryness and contraction manifested itself in two minutes, increased for ten minutes, then slowly disappeared in ten minutes more. From the fifth to the fifteenth minute the pharynx was *completely anæsthetic*, it seemed more so than with cocaine of equal strength. Some powdered sugar placed with a curette at the part of the tongue touching the pillars of the palate was not perceived in any way, whereas on the corresponding part of the other side it tasted sweet at once.

4. *On the urethra, glans penis, and rectum.* Two drops were injected into the anterior part of the urethra, and three drops let fall on the glans. A few drops were injected into the rectum. The effect was the same as with cocaine, fully as strong. The meatus was pale; the urethra, anæsthetic in five or six minutes. The sensitiveness in the rectum was reduced, not abolished, probably on account of the insufficient quantity injected. In half an hour the glans was sensitive to the touch again, and the meatus became pink, but was still anæsthetic. In forty-five minutes the normal condition was restored.

5. *On the skin.* A lady and myself had each two minims injected under the skin of the forearm. In five minutes the sensibility in the place was reduced, in ten to fifteen minutes abolished over an area of 12 mm. in diameter, then it gradually returned. A man (Dr. Weeks) had four minims injected under the skin of his forearm. Anæsthesia as above, but in five minutes he felt constitutional symptoms—dryness in his tongue and

throat, a general lassitude, a fullness, kind of stupor, in his head. These symptoms lasted almost half an hour.

Five experiments to produce *anæsthesia by external application of the remedy to a healthy skin gave uniformly negative results*. I had the ear of an eight-year-old girl carefully washed with soap and dried. Six drops were instilled in the concha and held for half an hour, until they were almost evaporated. No insensibility. A place at my forearm and that of a young man seventeen years of age were washed with soap for about ten minutes. When dried, absorbent cotton impregnated with the liquid was applied, covered with oil-silk, and held in position for half an hour. No anæsthesia. The moist pads were re-applied and held twenty minutes longer. No anæsthesia in either case. In order to ascertain whether the skin of the eyelids could be rendered anæsthetic for smaller operations, I washed my left eye and that of a man with soap, dried them, applied the cotton pads steeped in the liquid to the skin, covered them with oil-silk, and fastened them with a flannel roller. Repeated trials for more than an hour manifested no *anæsthesia whatever*.

B. TOXICOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS.—Five minims injected into the orbit behind the eyeball of a large rabbit, caused in half a minute the most violent attacks of tetanoid convulsions, in which opisthotonus was a prominent feature.

The attacks were repeated every ten to forty seconds. In the intervals the animal lay quiet, with excessively rapid respiration and pulse, and fibrillary twitching in different parts of the body. Touching its body was followed at times by spasms, at others not. This condition lasted fifteen minutes, and the animal appeared as if it were going to die, but gradually rallied, and recovered completely in about forty-five minutes. The eyes from the beginning were staring, the pupils *ad maximum* dilated, and the palpebral fissure enlarged. The cornea had not lost its sensibility completely.

Ten minims injected into the orbit of another smaller rabbit caused the same symptoms, but less violently and less long.

Fifteen minims in another rabbit produced the above picture in a marked degree. When the animal rallied, it dragged the

hind part of its body; the hind legs seemed weak, somewhat paralyzed; the forelegs were moved inco-ordinately, and after an exertion rested on the floor like the spread wings of a bird. The head was raised for a few seconds, but then dropped inert to the floor. Pulse of heart from 160 to 200; could not be counted with accuracy. Respiration accelerated. Condition of eyes as above. The animal recovered in an hour.

Twenty-five minims injected under the skin of a middle-sized rabbit produced the same picture, but very much more slowly. The first convulsive attack set in four minutes after the injection.

It was violent, of the opisthotonus and tetanic kind. The attacks succeeded one another at intervals of one-half to one minute. The abdomen was somewhat swollen; condition of eyes, respiration, and pulse as in the others. This animal also recovered perfectly in about an hour. No complete anæsthesia of the cornea; pupils, however, *ad maximum* dilated, and, as in the other animals, one eye like the other.

Ten minims were injected into the largest vein of one ear of another rabbit. As soon as the liquid entered the blood slight fibrillary convulsions or tremors were noticed over the front part of the body, and as soon as the injection was ended, which was not over ten seconds, *the animal lay down dead*. No respiration, no movement of any kind, was noticed. It was doubtful whether the heart still beat; if it did, it was most weak and for not one minute. It was the quietest and most sudden death I have ever seen from any cause. The pupils were not dilated.

The picture furnished by these experiments bears the greatest resemblance to that of strychnine poisoning.

C. THERAPEUTICAL EXPERIMENTS.—1. *On the eye*. Some cataract patients (one under the care of Dr. Born) had a drop instilled for the sake of *examination*. The pupils dilated *ad maximum*, and remained dilated three or four days.

A few *foreign bodies* were removed after one drop had been instilled. In five minutes the cornea were anæsthetic and the operation painless. The pupils remained dilated and the accommodation weakened for three days and a half.

In one case of *acute syphilitic iritis* I instilled one or two

drops every five minutes for three-quarters of an hour without producing perfect anæsthesia. The pupil dilated irregularly and only moderately. Then I instilled two drops of a three-per-cent solution of cocaine three times during the next fifteen minutes. The pupil remained unchanged, and the center of the cornea when touched was still sensitive and caused the lids to close as before. The circumcorneal injection, diminished by the stenocarpine, was not influenced by cocaine.

In a case of *acute, very painful iritis*, with a *corneal postule*, stenocarpine caused only a very moderate dilation of the pupil, even when used in combination with sulphate of atropine. It produced only temporary relief, the same as cocaine does.

In a case of *phlyctenular keratitis* stenocarpine instilled into the eye gave temporary comfort, dilated the pupil, and diminished the photophobia.

In a case of *trachomatous pannus*, with excessive photophobia and blepharospasm, it relieved these symptoms and dilated the pupil.

2. *On the ear.* In a case of *otitis media purulenta chronica*, with swelling of the mucous membrane in the upper part, repeated instillations diminished the sensitiveness only moderately.

In a case of the same disease, with a small polyp (treated by Dr. Weeks), stenocarpine instillations rendered the polyp anæsthetic, but not the surrounding tissue.

In a case of large *destruction of the drum* and moderate discharge, the instillations of stenocarpine made the tympanic cavity almost completely anæsthetic.

I will add that before the instillations the ears had been carefully cleansed and wiped dry.

In one case the *instillations caused general symptoms*. A very painful *furuncle*, situated at the posterior wall, was treated for twenty-four hours with instillations of a warmed solution of bicarbonate of soda. When it had perforated, four drops of stenocarpine were instilled into the ear canal. The pain diminished, but in ten minutes the patient, a young lady, felt dizzy, nauseated, weak, and fainting. She was very pale. Without removing the stenocarpine, I let her lie down five minutes. She

felt better. I forcibly pressed the furuncle out with a strong probe and cleansed the canal with absorbent cotton on a dentist's holder. These manipulations were not painless, but the tenderness was greatly reduced.

D. CONCLUSIONS.—From the preceding and Dr. Claiborne's observations, it follows that Drs. Goodman and Seward have presented us with a new local anæsthetic that is very similar to cocaine, chiefly differing from it by its more powerful and lasting mydriatic property. This difference determines its range of applicability.

1. Everywhere, when dilation of the pupil is desirable—*i. e.*, in all conditions that have a tendency to *congestion and inflammation of the iris*—stenocarpine, either alone or in combination with atropine, is beneficial, and preferable to cocaine.

2. Though its mydriatic effect be less persistent than that of sulphate of atropine, stenocarpine may be used with more advantage when in iritis there is increase of eyeball tension, a *tendency to glaucoma*, and *when there is great pain*. Further observations have to show whether or not stenocarpine, as other mydriatics, leads to granulations of the conjunctiva. If it do not, it will be very valuable in cases of chronic iritis.

3. Stenocarpine is *inferior to cocaine* when we want anæsthesia without mydriasis, as is the case in the majority of operations—removal of foreign bodies, paracentesis and incision of the cornea, iridectomy, extraction of cataract—more especially when in this operation the iris is spared—operations on the conjunctiva, the lachrymal apparatus, and the eyelids. For an ophthalmoscopic examination, homatropine will be preferable.

4. If we want to be certain of a *complete paralysis of accommodation*, for which stenocarpine is as reliable as sulphate of atropia, stenocarpine deserves preference, because its action lasts only half as long.

5. Applied *externally to an unbroken cutis*, it produces no *anæsthesia*. Observations to the contrary mentioned by Goodman and Claiborne must be owing to peculiar conditions which further experience has to determine.

9. *Small doses* (four drops) *rapidly absorbed* may produce

transient general symptoms—pallor of the skin, cold perspiration, dizziness, stupor, fainting, nausea, and weakness. The same symptoms are produced by cocaine.

7. Larger doses cause the most *alarming general symptoms*—violent tetanoid convulsions, opisthotonus, dilation of the pupils, excessive acceleration of pulse and respiration, and prostration.

8. *Introduced into the veins*, stenocarpine is the *strongest poison*, causing death almost instantly by arrest of respiration and pulsation.

9. It is certainly dangerous to inject even small quantities into vascular tissues, such as the orbit, for instance; it appears even unsafe to inject it under the skin in quantities exceeding ten minims of a two-per-cent solution—*i. e.*, about 0.01 ($\frac{1}{6}$ grain). We should also be on our guard if we apply it to an open wound during the progress of an operation.

10. *The symptoms of poisoning*, as has been seen from the above description, are like *those from strychnine*. The affinity of the two substances should be further investigated. The chemical tests for the detection of strychnine applied to stenocarpine have proved negative. The reflex excitability from stenocarpine is less than from strychnine, also its toxic effect is considerably less. I instilled into the eyes of a rabbit four drops, and into one eye of another two drops of a two-per-cent solution of nitrate of strychnine. Both animals died from tetanoid convulsions in ten minutes. Ten and fifteen minims of a two-per-cent solution of cocaine injected into the orbits of rabbits had no general effect.

The alkaloid stenocarpine was separated by Dr. Seward from the leaves of a tree growing in Louisiana, called the "Tear Blanket Tree." From its likeness to the acacia stenocarpo, he *dubbed* it stenocarpine.—*Herman Knapp, M. D., in Medical Record.*

STROPHANTHUS IN ORGANIC HEART DISEASE.

DR. J. HUTCHINSON, M. D., writes from Glasgow to the *British Medical Journal* concerning the value of the drug above named in heart disease. He administered it in twelve cases of heart affection, nine of which appear to have been symptomatic

only, and though relief was obtained, the remaining three cases, which were instances of structural disease, are most interesting. Writing of these latter patients he says: "In one there was a loud murmur, both obstructive and regurgitant. The patient was a woman, aged forty-five, in whom the prominent symptoms were harsh, hacking cough occurring in paroxysms, dyspnoea, and even at times orthopnoea, palpitation, and oedema of feet and legs. The pulse was intermittent, with a regular irregularity, and beating ninety to the minute. Strophanthus (one in eight) was given in half-drop doses at first, and was gradually increased until she was taking two minims three times a day. Almost from the first dose taken an alteration in the sufferings of the patient was observed. The heart-sounds were firmer and steadier; the pulse-beats, though still irregular, were not so fast; cough was much less troublesome, and the palpitation was neither so frequent nor so violent. Along with this there was a copious increase in the renal secretion, which soon relieved both the visceral engorgement and the oedema in the feet and legs. In fourteen days she felt so well as to be able to return to her household duties." The second case was similar, but less pronounced; and the third was one of aortic stenosis. In all these the effects of the drug were equal and analogous, and relief, if not complete cure, was rapidly and conspicuously obtained.—*Br. and Col. Drug.*

FATTY HEART, WEAK HEART, PSEUDO-ANGINA PECTORIS AND ALLIED STATES SUCCESS- FULLY TREATED BY A NEW METHOD.

THE principle has consisted in giving the few foods which the patient can digest, and which can best repair damages. Under the circumstances it is not so much force-developing and heat-producing foods that the patient requires as tissue-making. The sweets, starches, and fats, for the most part, are cut off from the diet, and milk, eggs, fresh meat, game or poultry, and the succulent vegetables are given. I warn you against large draughts of cold milk. Bulk becomes a cause of offense, and cold affects the heart injuriously through the solar plexus. Only a moder-

ate quantity of hot skimmed milk is admissible, but this is a precious resource. A small amount of fresh meat—beef, mutton, chicken, broiled or roasted, excluding all the parts charred in cooking—should be given once a day, and eggs allowed for breakfast. Bread must be eaten in moderation and it should be a day old at least. All hot breads, cakes, pastry, crackers, all gravies, sauces, condiments, pickles, fried articles, dried and preserved fruits, "canned" fruits and vegetables, salted meats, pork, bacon, ham, etc., are strictly prohibited. Such vegetables as lettuce, asparagus, celery, spinach, tomatoes, a single boiled or baked potato, if unexceptionable in quality, are advised. Stewed apple (fresh) without sugar is allowed as a vegetable, or a baked apple at the conclusion of a meal. Berries generally are advised against, unless known to agree, and then only in the fresh state, when they can be eaten quite moderately without the addition of sugar or cream. Such a simple dessert as wine or lemon jelly may be allowed if it does not give trouble.

Such, in general terms, is the diet of those who have still fairly good digestion; but, in cases of extreme gastric disorder, an absolute milk diet may be required, or such modifications made in the dietary just given as experience may demonstrate to be necessary. The capital point is to allow the patient no aliment that can give rise to indigestion or to fermentation in the least degree.

The next point in the treatment is exercise. Rest, but not sleep, is enjoined for a half-hour to an hour after meals, and two or three hours after meals, or longer, if digestion be slow, a definite quantity of exercise is prescribed. This is not left to chance, but the amount of exertion the patient can make with safety is ascertained, and the length of the excursion is slowly increased from day to day. Warn patients against the gymnasium. The constrained exercises taught in these institutions are a fruitful cause of heart trouble, and hence I do not advise them. The exercise which can be most accurately adjusted to the requirements of the case is walking, and this should be made an habitual duty. Of late the necessity of exercise in certain forms of heart disease has been brought forward from abroad as a new addition to the present treatment, and, as usual, we are likely to see exercise in

heart diseases carried to a ridiculous excess. I have not proposed that mountains be scaled, that somersets be turned, or that "ground and lofty tumbling" become the daily occupation. On the contrary, whilst I have advised systematic walking, regularly increased as the improvement warrants, I have sedulously warned against sudden and powerful muscular effort, and all movements that endanger the heart by overstrain.

I have now to call your attention to the application of drugs to the treatment of the fatty heart or weak heart—to the use of the medical agents, strictly speaking. Trinitrin, or nitro-glycerine solution of *one per cent*, and arsenic are the most important remedies. You observe I do not mention digitalis. I do not, at all, subscribe to the doctrine that digitalis is a "heart tonic." From my point of view this is a pernicious phrase—for, misled by this conception of its mode of action, physicians have not hesitated to administer it under all circumstances, if the heart were only weak.

The special reasons for the good effects of nitro-glycerine in weak heart are the following: 1. It lowers the vascular tension by dilating the arterioles. 2. It increases the rate of the heart's movements. 3. It lessens that irritability of the nervous system which finds expression in spasm, especially of the nervous system of organic life.

Under no plan of treatment have I seen so rapid and thorough improvement in the condition of the weak, the anæmic, and the ill-nourished. I prescribe the one-per-cent solution, beginning with one drop, and adding one drop at each dose until the characteristic effects are produced. The susceptibility to its action varies greatly. The amount required ranges from one to ten drops for the largest number. When the patient feels the least degree of the action (pain in the forehead and flushing of the face) the dose is sufficient, and that quantity should be continued, the intervals being from two to six hours, according to the character of the symptoms, and the persistence of the effects.

I must not fail to mention the other remedy—arsenic. I usually prescribe Fowler's solution (two to three drops three times a day); sometimes Pearson's solution of the arseniate of

soda (three to six drops three times a day). This remedy plays an important part in several ways: 1. It removes the morbid state of the gastro-intestinal mucous membrane. 2. It stimulates the appetite, the primary assimilation, and thus powerfully contributes to improve the nutrition of the body. 3. It lessens the irritability, and the abnormal readiness of reflex action of the nervous apparatus, and imparts that influence to the cardiac and respiratory functions, which we call *tonic*. I have said nothing about iron and tonics, and all the armamentarium of supporting treatment. I have advised nothing of these remedies because they are hurtful rather than beneficial.—*Robert Bartholow, M. D., in Medical News.*

OXALIC ACID, A NEW EMMENAGOGUE.

FORMERLY, in making a choice among the agents furnished by the materia medica of an emmenagogue, it was considered that the absence of the menses was due to a congestion or inflammation of the uterus; so that rue, savin, etc., were tried, as they were considered to possess some sort of dynamic action that would calm the congestion of the organ; or else it was supposed that the blood by some means had become altered and had been prevented from taking its habitual course; so drugs like saffron were tried, without much better results. Later it was discovered that the menstrual hemorrhage is nothing more than the consequence of ovulation, and there was a revulsion in therapeutical ideas, as the physiological basis had been entirely false. Suppression of the menstrual flux can be caused by the opposite causes of insufficiency and plethora, action of cold, climate, habit, food, etc., but oxalic acid would seem, from the numerous clinical cases given by Dr. F. Paulet, to act in almost all the various sorts of amenorrhea. It was reported that this agent acts equally well in almost all cases of catamenial difficulty where there may exist a febrile reaction with consecutive inflammation of other organs, and also when there is a hemorrhage, or when there is a suppression caused by a cold, which last is so common. Apiol is one of the few sure remedies left to us in amenorrhea, but it

can be used to advantage only when the suppression depends on some nervous cause; but oxalic acid, by the multitude of its applications, suits all cases. Attention is called also by this author to the fact that there exists an antagonism between the action of cinchona and its salts and oxalic acid. He declares that just as much as oxalic acid favors and provokes the menstrual flow so does quinine prevent it; so that the last should be a good remedy for metrorrhagia. And, indeed, Dr. Paulet and those with him consider quinine much superior to ergot in such cases. There is therefore great danger in giving cinchona preparations to women without considering the menstrual period. Oxalic acid has always been considered a very dangerous poison; but it seems to be one of our physiological proximate principles, since in the normal state it is found in the intestinal juice in considerable quantity, and it is now being studied in animals by Prof. Armand Gauthier and Mathias Duval. It probably plays an important rôle in intestinal digestion. The following formula has been used as an emmenagogue:—

R: Acid, oxalic, 1 part.
Aquæ ferventis, 100 parts.
Syr. aurantii corticis amaræ, 30 parts.

M. Sig.—Teaspoonful every hour.

In one case the whole of the above was given before the effect was produced; in other cases the menses came on before one-third had been taken.—*Philadelphia Medical Times*.

TETANUS CURED BY HYPODERMIC INJECTIONS OF COCAINE.

DR. LOPEZ reports the following case (*London Medical Record*): M. G., fifty years of age, after working in the wet and cold, complained of rheumatic pains of back and limbs. Three days later he had marked opisthotonus and painful cramps, and all the symptoms of idiopathic tetanus. Chloral hydrate and morphine were prescribed. For three days the patient was kept under the influences of these drugs, with the result that the pain was lessened, but the muscular rigidity and cramps increased.

He now became unable to swallow, and death seemed imminent. Morphine was injected hypodermically, but was followed by no amelioration of the symptoms. Three syringefuls of the mixed solutions of the morphine and cocaine (each five per cent) were then injected. The effect was immediate. After two hours he could move the limbs, turn in bed, and open his mouth. On the next day he was going on well; slight trismus and stiffness of the neck remained. On both sides of the neck, and at the angle of the jaw, a fourth part of the syringe of the same solution was injected. On the next day all the symptoms had disappeared. The patient rapidly regained strength, and in a week's time returned to work.

THE REMEDIES I USE IN PRACTICE.

DR. P. H. CARSON (*Kansas City Medical Index*) writes as follows:—

For bronchitis. There is no combination from which I derive so much satisfaction in the treatment of ordinary "colds" as R: Ammonii chloridi, ʒ j; tinct. opii camphoratae, f ʒ ss; syrupi scillae comp., f ʒ jss. M. Sig.—Teaspoonful every two or three hours, as the cough may require. If there be some fever, I add a suitable quantity of tincture of aconite.

For pharyngitis. As a "gargle," I derive most benefit, in acute inflammation of the pharynx, from: R: Potassii chloratis, ʒ j; aquae destillat., f ʒ iiij; ft. solut. et adde: tinct. ferri chloridi, f ʒ ij. M. Sig.—Use as a gargle four or five times daily. Sometimes, if the inflammation be severe and accompanied by constitutional disturbances, I prescribe internally tincture of phyto-lacca decandra, with the happiest results.

For lumbago. For the relief of lumbago, I order a belladonna plaster over the neuralgic parts, and internally a mixture of: R: Extracti cimicifugae, f ʒ iiij; codeinae sulphatis, gr. x; syrupi acaciae, f ʒ ss; aquae, q. s. ut fit, f ʒ iiij. M. Sig.—One teaspoonful every three hours until relieved. When the pain is not severe it is best to leave the sulphate of codeine out of the prescription.

For burns. There is nothing so beneficial for recent burns as

carron oil: R: Olei lini sem., aquæ calcis, āā f ʒ ij. M. Sig.—Apply to burned surface. Afterwards, if there be much suppuration, subiodide of bismuth may be dusted over the parts, making just a very thin film; if this produces much irritation the subnitrate in conjunction with some mercurial in vaseline may be used. Iodoform is worse than useless.

For conjunctivitis. In cases of conjunctivitis, I have long since discarded any irritating application. Nitrate of silver, sulphate of zinc, acetate of lead, only add fuel to the fire. I write for: R: Hydrargyria oxidi flavi, gr. ss; unguent. petrolei, ʒ ss. M. et ft. unguentum exactum. Sig.—Apply two or three times a day until relieved.

For anæmia. As a tonic in anæmia there is nothing equal to some preparation of iron. The most eligible mixture containing iron is one which I have used for a long time without a single complaint of nausea or other gastric disturbance, consisting of: R: Ferri citratis (*solubl.*) ʒ jss; aquæ destillat., f ʒ jj; fiat. solut. et adde: acidi sulphurici aromatic, f ʒ iij; glycerinæ, syrupi simplicis, āā f ʒ j. M. Sig.—One teaspoonful one hour after each meal. When the iron is given immediately after meals it unites with the tannic acid of the tea or other articles of diet, forming an insoluble tannate of iron—a pure ink, but not very valuable therapeutically.

For delirium tremens. In quieting the delirium of acute alcoholism, I sometimes use chloral hydrate or the bromides, but more often rely upon: R: Extracti lupulinæ fluidi, extracti hyoscyami, āā f ʒ ss. M. Sig.—One teaspoonful every two or three hours until delirium subsides. Monobromide of camphor acts well to control the persistent insomnia in certain instances.

For diarrhea. In controlling obstinate cases of diarrhea there is nothing more efficacious in my hands than the old prescription: R: Pulv. opii, camphoræ, plumbi acetatis, gr. x. M. et dispens, in capsul. No. x. Sig.—One capsule every two hours until the diarrhea ceases. In some cases large doses of tannic acid may be used, or bismuth subnitrate in combination with one or more of these three drugs; but when other remedies have failed, this prescription will be found to check the discharges, particularly if there be blood in the fæces.

For vomiting of pregnancy. For this often intractable trouble I generally give: R: Acidi carbolici, gtt. ij; bismuthi subnitrat, ʒ j; aquæ menth. pip., f ʒ ij. M. Sig.—One teaspoonful as often as necessary to check vomiting. If one dose be ejected, wait a few moments until the nausea subsides and then repeat. Certain cases do well on iced champagne, while others persist until dilatation of the cervix is performed.

For sleeplessness. When opium is contra-indicated, and there is persistent insomnia, my choice usually is: R: Ammonii bromidi ʒ ij; aquæ, q. s., ut ft. sol.; tincturæ hyoscyami, q. s., ad f ʒ ij. M. Sig. One teaspoonful every hour or two until sleep is produced.

For fetid sweating.—For the fetid secretion of the axilla or of the feet, a solution of salicylic acid is excellent, or this may be used: R: Potassii permanganatis, ʒ j; aquæ, Oj. M. Sig.—Apply to the parts night and morning.

DIARRHEA OF CHILDREN.

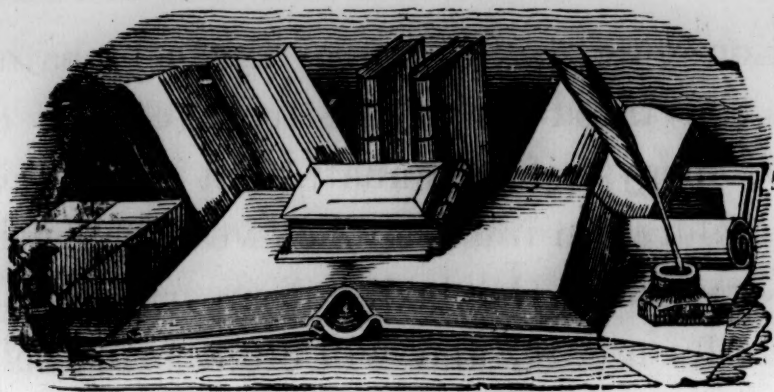
As the season of the year approaches in which diarrheas are especially fatal in children, we feel it not improper to call the attention of our readers to a remedy which, though used by some practitioners, is, we think, still neglected by many of the profession. We refer to the phosphate of sodium. In the summer diarrheas connected with a lack of digestive power, in which the stools are either clay-colored or habitually greenish, phosphate of sodium often brings a favorable response when the ordinary remedies for diarrhea seem to irritate rather than do good. In nursing children it may be given in the milk, ten grains in each bottle, or it may be given after eating, dissolved in a little water. It should be administered always in repeated small doses and not in a single large dose. Where there is habitual constipation, with occasional attacks of diarrhea, in young children, it is especially serviceable. It probably has some distinct specific action upon the glandular organs of the intestinal tract.

Another treatment of diarrhea to which we want to direct the

reader's attention anew, is the use of the cold bath. Our own experience has convinced us of the truth of the original affirmation of Dr. Comegys, of Cincinnati, that in the diarrheas occurring in young children in intensely hot weather, with more or less pronounced elevation of the bodily temperature, the cold bath will often suffice for a cure, and will often bring relief when all other measures fail. It should be given as often as the child's temperature rises; in rare cases once in every three hours; in other cases two or three times a day. The water should be of a temperature not above 80°, and the immersion should be sufficiently long to produce a distinct effect. Properly managed, these cold baths we think of inestimable value in the treatment of those forms of summer infantile diarrhea which are the outcome of heat.—*Therapeutic Gazette*.

ICHTHYOL FOR PSORIASIS.

A GENTLEMAN consulted me recently with respect to an obstinate case of palmar psoriasis which had hitherto resisted all manner of treatment. There was no history of syphilis, and the disease was limited to the palms of the hands. I prescribed the continuous application of a mixture of equal parts of ichthyol and glycerite of borax in alcohol; and he returned to show me a clean pair of hands, devoid of flaw or eruption, within one week of treatment. There has been no reappearance of the disease, now two weeks since, all he complains of being a slight burning sensation in the middle of the palms. Arsenic was also given internally in small doses, but he tells me that he had been already taking it for some time without benefit. This is my first experience of the successful application of ichthyol in this direction; and as I have not found the use of borax alone to cure similar cases, I cannot but attribute the results to the ichthyol.—*Medical World*.



EDITORIAL.

Cancer.—The abominable imposition which has so long been practiced upon the public by cancer quacks, has without doubt done much to lessen the interest and the belief of the profession in the curability of this intractable disease. We have entertained the belief for the entire length of our professional career that the disease is incurable. True, cases called cancer by physicians of repute and prognosticated as incurable, have afterwards fallen into the hands of cancer quacks and recovered; but this proved nothing, except that the best of physicians err in diagnosis. Cancer doctors lose more cases than they cure, by a large majority, and they invariably pronounce every new growth, which they are called upon to inspect, "cancer," if it be nothing but a simple wart; in fact, this is the extent of their ability as diagnosticians.

We recollect one case pronounced "cancer" by a noted specialist of Ohio, in which the growth, a wart having some hemorrhagic tendency, was removed by a daily application of saturated solution of bichromate of potassium, in two weeks' time, the prescription and medicine costing the patient four bits, when the specialist demanded a hundred dollars in advance for its removal. This, of course, is an exception; people love to be humbugged, and not many who apply to a cancer specialist escape his clutches without parting with a hundred dollars at least.

But it may be possible that the respectable portion of the profession is too much inclined to skepticism on this point. One thing is certain, if any advance is made in the therapeutics of this affection, it must come from this source. The knowledge of cancer specialists is mysterious and deeply laid. They hug their

secrets to their own bosoms (*i. e.*, if they possess any knowledge worth while, which is doubtful), and propose to fatten on the misfortunes of the few, while the millions of wretched sufferers outside their own narrow influence suffer on and perish horribly. This is the philanthropy of ye cancer curer.

Within the past few weeks we have noted some remarkable influence exerted upon a case of epithelioma of the fauces and soft palate, through the action of Schussler's tissue remedy, potassium sulphate. The case was far advanced when we were first called to inspect it. Ridges of indurated, angry tissue spanned the soft palate, the uvula was elongated and thickened with the same deposit, until the fauces were blocked and the larynx constantly irritated, and two deep ulcers existed, one inside each cheek behind the posterior upper molar tooth. The patient was debilitated, his voice husky, and appetite gone.

A recent reading of some of the clinical reports in the "Bio-chemic method" led to the selection of potassium sulphate as a remedy. The uvula was first drawn forward and clipped off, the sensation imparted through the scissors being that as of cutting a gristly substance, then small portions of absorbent cotton were moistened with water and rolled in a trituration of potassium sulphate 3x, and placed in the excavations behind the molars, to be changed every three hours. Internally, the patient had a teaspoonful of a solution of five grains of the same in four ounces of water, every two hours. By the end of the first week there was marked improvement, the new growths were not so prominent, the angry appearance was modified, and the patient averred that the pain had lessened perceptibly. The stump of the uvula had sloughed, leaving two semi-spherical depressions about the size of bird shot, and was showing a disposition to heal. The sloughy appearance of the buccal ulcers was also much modified. The case continued to improve in this manner for about three weeks, when, through failure to keep an office appointment with the patient, he passed out of sight, since which time nothing has been heard from him. He will probably die within a few months.

Dr. Culver, of Boston, in a report before the Massachusetts

Homeopathic Medical Society on *phytolacca conium* and *arsenicum iodide* in diseased *mammæ*, reports some remarkable results from the use of iodide of arsenic in indurated states of the mammary gland presenting marked characteristics of scirrhus. The remedy was used in the sixth decimal trituration in one-grain powders. He does not state the frequency of the doses, probably three or four times daily.

Hydrastis is a remedy which has been put forward as a specific for the cure of cancer. In the case of one cancer specialist we are very sure this is the main constitutional remedy relied upon, and we know from personal observation that this person loses numerous cases of cancer by death. In this instance the remedy is used both internally and in combination with simple ingredients as a plaster. It is said that the Indians used this remedy for cancer before the time of Columbus. *Rafinesque* mentions its use by them.

Dr. Pattison, an English homeopath, put forth the claim that it possessed the power of destroying the disease, or dyscrasia, when administered internally. A local application of aqueous extract of *hydrastis*, chloride of zinc and flour, and *stramonium* ointment, in combination, was relied upon to assist in destroying the growth, but Dr. Hastings, another English practitioner, having subjected the propositions of Dr. Pattison to the test, reported unfavorably. He wrote: "Having for some considerable time used *hydrastis* in cancer cases, I think I may, without any presumption, make some remarks thereon. I have now for upwards of eighteen months prescribed it in about twenty cases of cancer, viz., cancer of the tongue, breast, lip, hand, etc., in a variety of forms, from high to low dilutions, applied it externally, as Dr. Pattison does, and even by his directions, having twice sent patients for his advice, and I regret to say, in no single instance has it effected a cure, nor even appeared to check the disease. In one or two cases it did at first seem to have some power of arresting the disease, but this was of short duration. It is no doubt a powerful medicine, but whether it will cure cancer in any of its stages is very questionable, at least, according to my experience of it."

This was written more than twenty-five years ago, but since that time not a few claims have been put forward in homeopathic journals for the efficacy of the drug in the cure of cancer. In writing of the cure of cancer, Professor Scudder asserts that he has used hydrastis as a local and internal remedy with such results that he felt that little was lacking to give what was wanted. He refers favorably to cundurango, chian turpentine, oxalis acetosella, and iris vericolor. He reports a cure of lupus with the last named remedy, internally, with local applications of a solution of borax as a wash, followed by a dry dressing of subnitrate of bismuth in powder.

The little that is lacking in this instance amounts to a very large sum after all, for it still leaves the disease incurable so far as authentic reports are concerned. True it is that isolated reports reach us of successful cures, but the remedy has hardly been discovered which succeeds in even a moiety of the cases treated. Potassium sulphate is worthy an extended trial in epithelioma; from limited observation we have considerable faith in its efficacy, but must see more than one case recover under it before we can believe it a successful remedy. That new growths are influenced by internal agents there can be little doubt; the testimony of the effect of thuja on verrucous excrescences and of silica upon cartilaginous tumors, is too voluminous to be denied, and while we believe more may be expected from these remedies from the testimony than actual facts warrant, we must believe that certain remedies, through the circulation, do exert a positive curative effect upon certain non-malignant new growths. From these data it is not unreasonable to suppose that when we know more of the mysteries of therapeutics we shall be enabled to refer to a list of agents which will exert a more or less positive effect in checking the inroads of carcinoma, sarcoma, and other new formations of a malignant character.

Diet in Cancer.—Dr. Ephraim Cutter began a series of articles in the August number of the *Albany Medical Annals*, under the title of "Diet in Cancer," in which some remarkable effects are reported to have followed a rigid adherence to prescribed dietary

measures. The first case, that of a physician, Dr. Amos Twitchell, in whose family cancer had been the cause of death in two instances, became the subject of a suspicious tumor at the internal angle of the right eye. When first discovered it was not larger than a mustard seed, but it gradually grew to the size of a pea. It was imbedded in the substance of the skin, and was the seat of occasional lancinating pains. After a time a scab formed on it, and when this was removed three small lobes were exposed, from which exuded a purulent fluid. Various healing applications were employed with little or no good effect, and a few years after it was first noticed, it was removed with a scalpel. The wound, however, did not heal, and a few weeks afterwards it was operated on again and cauterized with nitrate of silver. The pain, nevertheless, continued becoming deeper and more radiating, and two years after, the tumor had augmented in size, being an open ulcer with ragged, hard, elevated edges yielding an excoriating discharge, and presenting a malignant appearance. Cold cream, preparations of zinc, iodide of lead, etc., were employed locally, all active applications being precluded, on account of causing inflammation of the eye.

About four or five years after the tumor became noticeable, the patient, whose mind was much depressed with the prospects, determined to try a course of bread and milk diet on the theory that ordinarily too much carbon is taken into the system, and from that time on he lived on this food for two years without deviation. As an effect of this the local pains soon subsided, and the purulent discharge diminished very much, and two years afterward the angle of the right eye was, to all appearance, as well as that of its fellow, the sight of the morbid growth being marked by a small white scar. The description of this case, which is much more complete than here given, is strongly in favor of the presence of malignancy, and the results of the dietary plan were certainly very flattering.

The second case reported was Dr. Twitchell's patient, who had a tumor on the scapula as large as a pint bowl, in all probability osteo-sarcomatous. The patient applied to Dr. Twitchell for its removal, but as a similar case operated on but a short time pre-

viously terminated fatally soon after the operation, he refused, and the patient returned home and subsequently recovered, the tumor disappearing after about two years adherence to a regimen of bread diet with an infusion of water-dock as a drink. This was the plan advised by some physician in New York.

The third case was that of a widow lady of middle age, of whose family several members had died of cancer, who was afflicted with uterine cancer, and recovered upon a strictly animal diet, consisting largely of chopped beef, with the exclusion of all vegetables, except tea and coffee. Recovery in this case was complete, six months after beginning the regimen. The fourth case was that of a lady fifty years of age, who was also afflicted with cancer of the uterus. She was put upon an exclusive animal diet, consisting principally of beef; Powdered iodoform was applied locally to the affected cervix. Quinine and iron were also employed, as also some more simple tonics with baths. Opiates which had been prescribed by her former physicians were abandoned. Rapid improvement followed this change, and the patient returned home in a few months, thinking herself cured, or at least so nearly so that she could manage the case for herself. This, however, was against the wishes of her physician. Soon after returning home, she grew worse, and again resorted to the use of opiates for the relief of pain, and nine months afterward died of cancer of the uterus.

The remaining five cases of the nine reported were fed on an exclusive animal diet, and four of these recovered. The unsuccessful one improved until the regimen of beef essence was abandoned, when the disease returned and proved fatal. Tea and coffee were allowed in some of these cases, and constituted the only vegetable substances taken, except bitter tonics. The treatment was simple outside this, consisting of iodoform, carbolic acid, etc., locally.

This report is interesting and valuable, but it seems contradictory. The first case was evidently, from the description, one of malignant disease, and the dietary restrictions, without doubt, were the means of recovery, but the diet was a mixed one, consisting of both animal and vegetable food. The second case re-

covered on a strictly vegetable diet, while the remaining seven all improved on a strictly animal diet, excepting tea and coffee, and all recovered who persisted in the regimen. It seems difficult to comprehend the lesson inculcated here. Possibly a heterogeneous diet is attended by activity in the tissue changes of the body, while the consumption of the one kind of food fails to impress such rapid changes, and thus tends to lessen the rapidity of tissue alteration, and interferes with the accumulation of morbid products. Or, possibly, an explanation might be made on the ground that a person confined to the one diet would only consume barely what is required by the body. In this way less activity in the system follows. This would certainly be true as regards the elimination of a surplusage of food. Another explanation would be the small amount of fecal material resulting from a simple diet, for, the appetite not being whetted by new articles to tempt the palate, little more than needed would be ingested. We know the argument has been advanced that cancer is caused by the absorption of fecal material from the lower intestinal canal.

California's Boom.—The past year has been an encouraging one for the future prospects of this State. People from the East have finally become generally cognizant of the superior climatic influences of the Pacific Coast, and older health resorts have hence surrendered their prestige to "the land of the setting sun." The fabulous prices paid for homes in the southern part of the State by Eastern new-comers, presage not an evanescent explosion of touristic interest in this clime, but a substantial and rapid increase in its permanent wealth and population.

Nor is the influx confined to Southern California. We begin to feel the effect of Eastern transmigration here also. People who have investigated have found that they do not need to remain in the southern portion of the State in order to enjoy salubrity of climate. The Japan stream which bathes the entire coast of California, assists in preserving a remarkably equable temperature in almost all portions of the State, and as for fruits, middle California has established the fact that it is the

best portion of the State, and the best place in the world for the culture of semi-tropical varieties.

With the influx of population many physicians are entering the State, and among these quite a large number of eclectics. The majority of these, so far as we have been enabled to judge, are men who will be a credit to the calling—scholarly and practical physicians, whose ability to cope with disease cannot be rivaled by any other equal number of physicians coming. What we fondly hope is that they will not be content to merely abide here and exist within themselves, but will manifest the public spirit to come out to our State society and identify themselves with the interests of the profession to which they belong. Our school is gaining ground in this State, and it needs no prophetic eye to foresee a golden future for it with the aid of a moiety of public spirit. Of course we cannot expect physicians from the southern part of the State to turn out to every State meeting—the distance from San Francisco to Los Angeles is in the neighborhood of 500 miles—but there ought to be interest manifested by an occasional visit at least.

It has been the custom of some of the teachers of our school in the East to disparage the college on this coast, and those who have not done so have remained silent, treating us as though we did not exist. Two honorable exceptions to this course can be named in Professors Howe and Wilder, and we could not receive higher recognition. These gentlemen have signified that they were aware an eclectic medical college exists in California, and their notice, to say the least, has not been disparaging. But the tendency of eclectic teaching, generally, in the East has been to imbue the graduates there with the idea that the cause is feebly represented here, and the consequence is that many eclectics come to the State regarding our college, society, and JOURNAL as a poor sort of side-show not worth patronizing or noticing.

• It is a duty that California physicians owe themselves to sustain our college by sending their students to us. Without a college here there is little probability that an eclectic examining board would long exist. Without this a new-comer would be

unable to exist as a legal practitioner within the limits of the State. So long as our college lives and has a respectable standing it will be a bulwark of defense against the designs of the dominant school, which would move heaven and earth to oust us if possible. The homeopaths realized this long ago, and took steps to fortify themselves, by chartering and establishing a medical college in San Francisco. In Minnesota there is no eclectic school, and the eclectics there are denied representation on the examining board, though the homeopaths are recognized through virtue of their college. These facts we point to simply as illustrations of the condition of affairs and of the lesson it ought to teach, not because we would champion medical legislation beyond its legitimate bounds.

If those representing our cause here are incompetent, it will be a good reason why new-comers should come out to help. We are not running a close-communion clique, but will welcome all who come properly qualified; and by this we mean educated physicians. When we are convinced that such men are determined upon a respectable course, we will be glad to find them identified with the society, college, and JOURNAL. There is room in our college Faculty for two or three men of the right stripe, but they must have ability, sobriety, good credentials, and ambition. Such men cannot apply too soon.

The immigration boom then in California, let us hope and believe, is destined to be a boom for eclectic medicine as well. It certainly can be if new-comers are of the stuff of which eclectic physicians should be made.

A Step in Advance.—H. calls attention, in the editorial pages of the *Eclectic Medical Journal* of last month, to the fact that a set of resolutions were passed at the Waukesha meeting of the National, forbidding members to be advertised in the *Transactions* as professors; “and as certain fraudulent concerns, claiming to possess university powers, have conferred the titles of D. D., LL.D., and Ph. D. upon individuals *for a consideration*, and not as rewards of merit, it was resolved that hereafter no such distinguishing feature shall be employed, the sim-

ple M. D. being enough to designate our professional standing in the *Transactions*."

This will be a disappointment to some of the titled writers of eclecticism, for the title has been the tail that has wagged the dog in too many instances. No writer should append a university title to his name who cannot write good English, as has sometimes certainly been the case. An ordinary M. D. is not expected to always be above reproach, but when a writer puts on university airs, he should be careful not to make too much of a fool of himself before the public. If all eclectics can only be capable M. Ds. it will be quite enough for the glory of the cause, and shed much more luster than any amount of titles appended to cover up deficiencies.

A Reputed Prophylactic against Rhus Poisoning.—

A medical writer of New York, Dr. Hardy, in a book recently published on the "Theory and Practice of Medicine," proposes to provide immunity against the poisonous influence of rhus toxicodendron, through the swallowing or eating of ten or a dozen of the bright black berries which grow upon the vine of the poison oak. These ripen about August or September in the South; are of a glittering blue-black color, about the size of a small garden pea, and entirely harmless. The writer asserts that he was excessively sensitive to the influence of the vine, the poison influencing him if he only rode within a few feet of it, but since eating the berries he is able to handle it with impunity. An old negro herb doctor taught him the secret.

If this is a fact, which we shall doubt until proven by practical test, it will prove a boon to Californians, for the rhus is almost omnipresent here, and more powerful in its influence, we believe, than in the East.

Ophthalmic Metropolis.—An important source of revenue to the physicians of New York City is the ophthalmic practice, which is very largely owing to the clouds of infinitesimal particles of steel produced by the friction of the elevated railway trains. It is said that nine cases out of ten of eye afflictions in the city arises

from the above-named source. Oculists, general practitioners, and even druggists share in the profits of this disease-producing factor, for many patients will apply at drug stores for eye washes for relief. One celebrated oculist reaps an income of \$200 per day, largely from this source. The loadstone is employed to locate the steel and withdraw it if possible; if not, incisions of the cornea are made to liberate the metallic particles.

Thymol as a Remedy for Tapeworm.—Another remedy recommended for tapeworm is thymol. The manner of employing it as recommended by the Italian physician who introduces it for this purpose, is to administer about half an ounce of castor-oil in the evening, when the patient should abstain from food, and take next morning two drachms of thymol, divided into twelve doses, every quarter of an hour. About half an hour after the last dose has been given a dose of castor-oil should be administered. This is usually followed by the expulsion of the dead worm. Thymol quickly depresses the pulse respiration and temperature, and to obviate any ill effects from this cause, frequent doses of brandy or spirits should be given at the same time. Thymol produces no disturbance of the stomach, is rapid in effects, is a tænicid and tænifuge, and while certain in action will not be liable to produce bad results if an error in diagnosis has been made.

MISCELLANEOUS PARAGRAPHS.

LIBELING THE LADIES.—*Invalid* (fretfully, to his nurse)—“What is that infernal row in the other room? Is anybody getting killed? Who is that calling for the police?”

Nurse (reassuringly)—“Oh! don't mind that, sir. It's Mrs. Dr. Pellets, Miss Dr. Calomel, and Mme. Dr. Jupiter holding a consultation, sir.”

COCAINE IN CROUP.—Labrie (*Am. Jour. of Phar.*, Feb., 1887) praises cocaine as the best remedy for croup. He applies a brush dipped in a five-per-cent solution of cocaine to the throat for several seconds; a few drops are allowed to go down the larynx. The operation is repeated two or three times a day, and nothing but a little black coffee is administered.

A WRITER in the *New York Medical Monthly* reports an operation of circumcision in a patient over ninety years of age, suffering from the effects of an elongated prepuce, which, as the author says, should have been removed just ninety years and ten days before it actually was. The somewhat belated operation was performed successfully without ether, cocaine being injected into the preputial fold, and the aged patient beguiled the time for his surgeon by telling stories throughout the operation. The healing was rapid, and the gentleman is now provided with a serviceable organ.—*New York Medical Times*.

AN instrument which consists of a telephone attached to a battery has recently been satisfactorily used in detecting metallic substances in the tissues. A current of electricity is passed through the body near the suspected substance. A steel plate and needle form the poles of the battery. A sound is heard in the telephone the moment the needle is carried over the foreign body.—*New York Medical Times*.

A FAMILIAR illustration of the rapidity with which the spores of fungi multiply is found in the common puff-ball. One of these contains so many spores that if it were possible for a man to be continually employed day and night for 300 years it would require that time for him to count them, yet a single spore in some of these plants if planted in a congenial place will produce a plant as large as the double fist in a single night.

It may be well to know that when the chloride of gold and sodium cannot be obtained from the usual sources, it may be procured from photographers, who use it in finishing processes for certain portions of their work. Professor Bartholow continues to advocate and claim for this remedy the efficacy of its use in the various scleroses. Especially is he positive as to its benefit in interstitial nephritis after the acute symptoms have subsided.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*.

A DISINFECTANT MIXTURE FOR APARTMENTS.—A contributor to the *Union Medicale* for December 16, 1886, gives the following formula:—

R: Camphor, 20 parts.
 Calcium hypochlorite, 50 parts.
 Alcohol, 50 parts.
 Water, 50 parts.
 Oil of eucalyptus, 1 part.
 Oil of cloves, 1 part.

Mix in a large vessel kept cold. A few drops, on a napkin, are enough to disinfect a room.—*N. Y. Medical Journal*.

IN September I shall assume the editorship of a quarterly journal, the *Climatologist*, devoted to the scientific and practical consideration of questions in the domain of medical and sanitary climatology, including Climato-therapy, Medical Geography, Epidemiology, Preventive Medicine, and the investigation of the merits of Mineral Springs and Health Resorts. Many of the most eminent climatologists, sanitarians, and practitioners have consented to act as collaborators on the new journal.

As there is at present no other journal in the world exclusively occupying this special field, the editor and publishers believe that there is room for such a publication.

The name of the new journal will be the *Climatologist*; each number will contain 48 quarto pages of reading matter; the subscription price will be fifty cents per year, and the place of publication, southeast corner of Baltimore and South Streets, Baltimore, Md.

GEORGE H. ROHÉ, *Editor*.

August 8, 1887.

A NOVEL UTERINE DILATOR.—Dr. C. P. Wilkinson, of New Orleans, reports in the New Orleans *Medical and Surgical Journal* for May, 1887, an interesting case of labor delayed by rigidity of the os uteri, in which he effected dilatation by introducing into the uterus a rubber condom, upon a female catheter, and distending the former by means of a tube connected with a fountain syringe. The bag of the fountain syringe was raised about two feet. It was found that the patient could not bear an uninterrupted pressure, on account of the pain it produced, and Dr. Wilkinson imitated nature by raising the bag of the syringe during the pains, and lowering it during the intervals between the pains. By this means he made his artificial bag of waters act like a natural bag of waters, and even supplement the efforts of nature to produce dilatation during pains, and relieved his patient of the strain at the times during which nature relaxes her exertions.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*.

THE MEDICAL USE OF EGGS.—For burns and scalds there is nothing more soothing than the white of an egg, which may be poured over the wound. It is softer as a varnish for a burn than collodion, and being always on hand can be applied immediately. It is also more cooling than the "sweet-oil and cotton," which was formerly supposed to be the surest application to allay the smarting pain. It is the contact with the air which gives the extreme discomfort experienced from ordinary accidents of this kind; and anything which excludes air and prevents inflammation is the best thing to be at once applied. The egg is also considered one of the very best remedies for dysentery. Beaten up lightly, with or without sugar, and swal-

lowed at a gulp, it tends by its emollient qualities to lessen the inflammation of the stomach and intestines, and, by forming a transient coating on these organs, to enable nature to assume her healthful sway over the diseased body. Two, or at the most three, eggs per day would be all that would be required in ordinary cases; and, since the egg is not merely a medicine, but food as well, the lighter the diet otherwise, and the quieter the patient is kept, the more certain and rapid is the recovery.—*Medical Advocate.*

BOOK NOTICES.

PRACTICAL URINE TESTING, a guide to office and bedside, urine analysis for physicians and students, by Charles Edwin Jennings, M. D., Professor of Chemistry and Diseases of Children, Detroit College of Medicine, etc. Published by D. O. Haynes & Co. Detroit, Mich.

This is a very complete and concise work on the subject treated, including the physiology and pathology of the urine, a thorough examination of the normal and abnormal constituents, with full account of the tests capable of detecting abnormal substances, a chapter on practical urinary analysis, one on quantitative analysis, one on the microscopical examination of urine, one on the analysis of calculi, and one devoted to apparatus and re-agents. It is the most complete work of its size we have ever seen on the subject, containing it complete in small compass and in convenient shape for ready reference.

In this day and age no intelligent and wide-awake physician will neglect this important branch of diagnosis, and a book on the subject should be at hand to refresh the memory and thus assist in calling to mind the numerous details necessary to be carried out in the thorough examination of suspected urine.

WHAT TO DO IN CASES OF POISONING, by Wm. Murrell, M. D., F. R. C. P., Lecturer on Pharmacology and Therapeutics in the Westminster Hospital, Examiner in Materia Medica in the University of Edinburgh and to the Royal College of Physicians of London, etc. First American from the fifth English edition. Edited by Frank Woodbury, M. D., Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, etc., etc. Published by the Medical Register Co., Philadelphia.

This is a handsome little volume of 158 pages, in which the treatment of poisoning is thoroughly canvassed. The preface

to the fifth edition by the author is characteristic, and we will introduce the work in his own words:—

“This work has reached a fifth edition, but it is not my fault, and I disclaim all responsibility in the matter. I am told that it has been the means of saving many lives, and I have no doubt this is true, for I hear that a gentleman who thought of poisoning himself changed his mind on reading the directions for treatment. He was of a retiring disposition and objected to have a pint of hot strong coffee injected into his rectum.

“A complaint is made that the book is getting too big. I admit it, but the fact is there are too many poisons nowadays. If people who contemplate committing suicide would only adopt a uniform method, it would facilitate matters greatly.

“I have introduced a chapter on ‘The Fee,’ which is very often forgotten.”

EARTH AS A TOPICAL APPLICATION IN SURGERY, being a full exposition of its use in all cases requiring topical applications admitted in the Men's and Women's Surgical Wards of the Pennsylvania Hospital during a period of six months in 1869 by Addinell Hemson, M. D. Published by the Medical Register Company, 1519 Walnut St., Philadelphia.

This, as the title page indicates, is a series of clinical reports on the use of earth as a surgical dressing. The text is accompanied by a number of photo-relief illustrations of some of the cases treated.

DISEASES OF THE HEART, Vol. 1, by Dujardin Beaumetz, translated by E. R. Hurd, M. D.

This constitutes the second number of the present year's series of “The Physician's Library,” published by Geo. S. Davis, of Detroit, Michigan. It consists of a volume of 179 pages well printed on good paper and written by an author of world-wide reputation, upon an important subject. Dr. Beaumetz possesses more than the average amount of ability as a therapist and more than the average amount of liberality as to the investigation of remedies introduced by the new school. Consequently the work is a valuable addition to American medical literature. Price per single copy, 25 cents.